

Message Text

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22

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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P 050914Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5906

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 788

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS PRIORITY TO USMISSION NATO, USCINCEUR
VAIHINGEN GER,CINCLANT NORFOLK VA, USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS
BEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, PO

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE FORCE DEVELOPMENT

REF: (A) STATE 20559 (DTG 280026Z JAN 76), (B) LISBON 641
(DTG 291630Z JAN 76)(NOTAL)

1. APPRECIATE RAPID AND FAVORABLE WASHINGTON RESPONSE OUTLINED
REF (A). FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF THE TWO POINTS
CITED IN PARA 4 REF (A):

2. FUTURE STRUCTURE AND MISSIONS FOR ARMED FORCES: ALTHOUGH
THOUGHTS HAVE NOT FULLY CRYSTALIZED IN THE WAKE OF PORTUGUESE
WITHDRAWAL FROM AFRICA, ALL PORTUGUESE SERVICES ENVISAGE A NATO-
RELATED MISSION. STRENGTH OF SERVICES IS CURRENTLY ENVISAGED
AS FOLLOWS:

-- ARMY: 26,000 (APPROXIMATELY 10,000 "OPERATIONAL";
10,000 "TERRITORIAL INFRASTRUCTURE"; 6,000 "GENERAL INFRA-
STRUCTURE" - SEE LISBON 525 DTG 241316Z JAN 76).

-- NAVY: 12,000 (PRIMARILY ASW).

-- AIR FORCE: 5 TO 10,000.

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3. AIRTRANSPORTABLE BRIGADE: AIRTRANSPORTABLE BRIGADE DEFINITELY REPRESENTS CURRENT PORTUGUESE THINKING, ALTHOUGH WE OBVIOUSLY HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH HELPING TO FOCUS THEIR PRIORITIES. ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF EANES CITED BRIGADE AS ARMY'S PRINCIPAL REQUIREMENT DURING JANUARY 26 CONVERSATION WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE HARTMAN (REF B). THUS FAR, PORTUGUESE ARMY PLANNERS HAVE NOT ADDRESSED QUESTION WHETHER THE AIRTRANSPORTABLE BRIGADE WOULD HAVE A BATTALION ASSOCIATED WITH THE AMF, BUT WE SEE NO REASON WHY THIS WOULD NOT BE FEASIBLE.
CARLUCCI

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED TO ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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NNN

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04 MAY 2006

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